Prisoners in jails of SAARC countries

509. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of prisoners lodged in jails in SAARC countries as on 31st March, 2007, country-wise;

(b) whether Government have entered into any agreement with recently concluded SAARC conference in New Delhi on this issue;

(c) what assistance Government are providing to jailed Indians abroad through our Embassies; and

(d) whether the families of the prisoners in India are being informed of the action taken by Government and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) A statement of Indian prisoners in jails in SAARC countries is enclosed in Statement (*See* below).

(b) No.

(c) and (d) The Government of India, through Indian Missions and Posts abroad and through bilateral meetings with the officials of the concerned countries, make all possible efforts to get Indian nationals in foreign jails released quickly and provide necessary assistance which includes requesting for speedy trials, seeking remission of sentence, seeking consular access to the detainees and prisoners, providing advice/guidance in legal and other matters, ensuring fair and humane treatment in foreign jails and facilitating repatriation to India on their eventual release. The Government also pass on information concerning prisoners to their families in India.

Statement

Indian Prisoners in Jails of SAARC Countries

Sl. No.	Name of the country	No. of prisoners
1.	Afghanistan	Nil
2.	Bangladesh	854
3.	Bhutan	30
4.	Maldives	13
5.	Nepal	292
6.	Pakistan	629
7.	Sri Lanka	58